the production of the automotive industry is expected to achieve a growth rate of over 20% in the year 2006-07 and about 15% in the year 2007-08. The export during the same period is expected to grow over 20%.

**Appointment of Chairmen and Directors of PSUs**

†2351. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure of appointing Chairmen and Directors in the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the details of vacant posts of administrative heads lying vacant in Public Sector Undertakings for the past some time;

(c) the reasons for delay in filing up such vacant posts; and

(d) by when these posts are likely to be filled up by Goverment?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Chief Executives and Functional Directors are appointed in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) by the Administrative Ministries/Departments concerned on the basis of recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) after obtaining the approval of the competent Authority.

(b) As per available information, posts of Chief Executives in 12 CPSEs *viz*. Braithwaite and Company Limited, Burn Standard Company Limited, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Dredging Corporation of India Limited, Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited, Instrumentation Limited, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, North-Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation, North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Oil & Natural Gas Corporaton Limited and Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited are presently vacant.

(c) The reasons for delay in appointment to such posts include, delay in obtaining vigilance clearance/approval of competent authority, delay in taking over of charge by the appointee, sudden vacancies, posts

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

kept in abeyance as conscious decision by the concerned Ministries, court cases etc.

(d) The Government has issued detailed guidelines indicating the defined time frame for filling up such posts in CPSEs so that the Public Enterprises Selection Board recommendations should be made at least 6 months in advance of the date of occurrence of vacancies and are sent to the concerned Ministry/Department for completing other formalities.

**Exploration by Cairn in Ganga Basin**

†2352. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cairn Energy India Private Ltd., a foreign company, has been assigned the task of exploring petroleum in the Ganga basin and other areas in Bihar on contract basis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the company has started its function involving the expenditure of about 200 crore rupees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. One exploration block namely GV-ONN--2001/1 has been contracted to M/s Cairn Energy under IV round of NELP.

(a) and (c) An investmentof US$ 0.52 Million has been incurred in this block till 31st March 2006.

**Disparity amongst contract workers**

2353. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers employed as contract workers by ONGC at Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Baroda and Ankleshwar in Gujarat.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.